Wages revision in newspaper industry

493. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major associations of Journalists and non-journalists have demanded immediate wage revision in the newspaper industry and news-agencies in view of everrising inflation and diminishing wages; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from various Associations and Organisations of Newspaper employees regarding revision of wages. In view of the fact that a large number of writ petitions challenging the Bachawat Wage Board Award under the Working Journalists Act are pending in the Supreme Court, it has been decided sot to set up a new Wage Board for the Journalist and Non-Journalist employees for the present.

Physical conditions of Labour working in Beed factories

494. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the physical condition of workers working in various Beedi factories in Madhya Pradesh has been affected by various diseases particularly TB and Cancer;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the findings there of; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to improve the health conditions of Beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) No specific report about health conditions of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh is available. However, it is seen that beedi workers generally suffer from general weakness, tiredness, headache, giddiness, blurred vision, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, chest pain, cough with expectoration breathlessness and joint pain.

(b) Central Government has not conducted any survey in respect of physical conditions of workers working in beedi factories in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) For supplementisg the efforts of the State Government to meet the health needs of beedi workers in Madhya Pradesh, the Central Government had already set up 22 Static and Static-*cum*-mobile dispensaries under Labour Welfare Organisation. In addition to this following schemes are also being operated to provide health facilities to beedi workers and their family members:

(i) scheme for reservation of beds in T.B. hospitals, (ii) scheme for domiciliary treatment of workers suffering from TB, (iii) scheme for reimbursement of actual treatment charges for workers suffering from Cancer, (iv) scheme for Maternity Benefit, (v) scheme for providing facilities for treatment of workers suffering from mental diseases, (vi) scheme for Leprosy relief and (vii) schme for grant of financial assistance for purchase of spectacles.

Mentral legislation for building and construction workers

495. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3979 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th March, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the proposal for enactment of a Central Legislation for Building and Construction workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when Government are likely to finalise the proposal in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Proposal for enactment of Central Legislation for Building and Construction Workers is under consideration of the Government.

Recommendations of the Committee on Petitions of the Eighth Lok Sabha on Construction Workers

496. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Committee on Petitions of the Eighth Lok Sabha contained in its 12th report dated the 25th July, 1989 on construction workers have been implemented;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating introduction of a fresh and a comprehensive bill on the construction workers as recommended by the said committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to consult the National Campaign Committee on Central Legislation for Construction Labour headed by Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer, while drawing up such a bill as advised by the said Committee?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) to (c) Proposal for enactment of a Central Legislation for Construction Workers *vis a vis* the recommendations of the Lok Sabha Committee on Petitions on the Petition of the National Campaign Committee is under consideration of Government.

Checking of bonded labour in the country

497. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite a legislative ban on the practice of bonded labour in the country, more than 2 lakh bonded labourers have been identified during the year 1990-91;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government machinery to check boded labour is not working effectively;

(d) what are the details of the States from where maximum bonded labourers have been identied; and

(e) what steps Central Government propose to take to deal with such practice effectively?

THE DEUPTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR): (a) (b) and (d) The details of number of identfied bonded labourers as reported by various States during the year 1990-91 is given in the statement. (*See* below).

(c) and (e) The responsibility for enforcing the provision of Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 rests with the State Governments. The Centre have

TOTAL.: 9972

ernments to intensify their efforts at identification and rehabilitation of bonded labour. The progress of State Governments in this matter is monitored regularly.

Statement

The State-wise number of bonded labourers identified during 1990-91.

State	Number of bonded labourers identified during 1990-91
Andhra Pradesh	1856
Bihar	33
Karnataka	5938
Madhya Pradesh	317
Maharashtra	41
Orissa	108
Rajasthan	126
Tamil Nadu	323
Uttar Pradesh	1230
Gujarat	Nil
Haryana	Nil
Kerala	Nil
Total	9972

Expert committee retport on pension scheme for journalists

498. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: